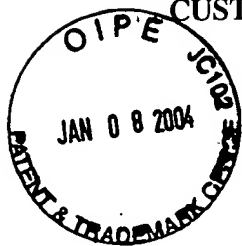


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Hidetoshi FUKUOKA, et al.

Application No.: 09/730,706

Group Art Unit: 1744

Confirmation No.: 7997

Filed: December 6, 2000

Examiner: Theresa T. SNIDER

For: ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 8, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.